



National Institutes of Health  
National Library of Medicine  
Bethesda, Maryland 20894

June 5, 1997

Dear NLM Licensee:

This letter is to inform you of the decisions made by the National Library of Medicine regarding YEAR 2000 concerns. NLM has decided on the following in regard to its bibliographic databases:

1. All date fields in the distributed unit records, whether of the form YY, YYMM, or YYMMDD, will remain in that form and NOT have the CC (Century) appended at the front of the Year portion of the data. The actual data will not change to accommodate a Century indicator.

2. Changes will be made in the MEDLARS Information Retrieval system (ELHILL) which services our online users as follows:

a. Date fields such as Entry Month (data element number 383) and Date of Entry (data element number 100) will be searchable both with and without the CC value, e.g., the April 1997 Entry Month will be searchable as both 9704 (EM) and 199704 (EM).

b. These same selected Date fields will be displayed to the user on screen and on paper with the CC value, e.g., EM-199704.

c. ELHILL allows mathematical ranging on selected fields. The values in the ranging file will be changed such that the CC will be included, e.g., if the Date of Entry were range able in a database, May 29 1997 would be represented by the value 19970529 rather than 970529 for ranging purposes.

Please share this information with all appropriate technical staff in your organization. The National Library of Medicine recommends that licensees receiving its data allowances for YEAR 2000. While we will expect to implement these changes in our retrieval system this year when MEDLINE is regenerated mid-December, the data supplied to you will not be changing in regard to YEAR 2000 concerns.

If you have questions regarding NLM's decisions on YEAR 2000, you may contact David Kenton at [david\\_kenton@nih.gov](mailto:david_kenton@nih.gov) or [philip\\_nielsen@nlm.nih.gov](mailto:philip_nielsen@nlm.nih.gov).

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